



Greetings,

As we welcome spring, Passover, and Easter we are also made aware this month of Autism and stress as this month recognizes both disabilities. As first responders it is important to understand how they both call for understanding, compassion, and awareness. Use this month to refresh on the raining you receive or go to our website or use other resources to learn more about them.

The FR-DAT office would like to welcome Cary Newman, the new program manager. Cary, an alumni of Niagara University is working on her Masters in Developmental Disabilities and has an extensive background in developmental disabilities.

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# April Newsletter 2017

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RECENT NEWS HEADLINES	RESOURCES
<a href="#">Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jail Six Questions County Leaders Need to Ask</a>	<a href="#">Emergency Preparedness Resources for People with Disabilities and their Caregivers</a>

"Kids in Cuffs: Why Handcuff a Student With a Disability"

"Competency of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disability in the Criminal Justice System: A Call to Action for the Criminal Justice Community"

"Policing Persons with Disabilities in the 21st Century: A Call for Crisis Prevention and Procedural Justice"

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**Niagara University First Responders  
Disability Awareness Training receives  
IADLEST Accreditation for Law Enforcement  
Train the Trainer course**



As an accredited entity, the first responder's course can be used for Law Enforcement to fulfill required credits needed to maintain law enforcement certifications in 35 states.

**Inaugural First Responder Disability Awareness Missouri  
Advisory Council held**



The first Missouri Advisory Council was held in Columbia, Missouri on March 28th. Representatives from Kansas City Fire Department, Missouri State Police, FBI, Missouri EMS Association, Commission for the Deaf, The ADA Center, Missouri Governors Council on Disabilities, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), Missouri Family Education on Autism Treatment (FETE), Missouri Tourette Syndrome Association, Missouri Office of Emergency Management, and other key players were in attendance. Members discussed and collaborated on the next steps to building the Missouri specific Disability Awareness Training curriculum for all categories of first responders. The input collected was extremely in depth and the knowledge of those who participating was enlightening and essential in completing this task.

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### **Double amputee Marine to join Suffolk County Police**

On March 24, 2017, Matias Ferreira was sworn into Suffolk County Police Department, and is believed to be the first fully active double-amputee police officer in the United States. Ferreira is

a veteran who lost his legs during a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2011. Ferreira had always dreamed of being a Police Officer and states "I'm just really eager and excited to prove myself to my colleagues in my new job, my new career, that I'm capable of doing the job just as well as somebody with both legs,"(Newsday). For more on this story [Click Here](#)

*"This is someone who served our nation, paid a significant sacrifice, and is now able to overcome adversity in a tremendous way," Sini said. "He's done a terrific job as a recruit in the academy, both physically, academically and in his leadership to the other recruits, and he's going to make a fine officer."* (Newsday 3/25/17)



**The Suffolk County Police Department has made it a priority to train all participants of their police academy, using the First**

## **Responder's Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Program.**

"The goal of every Suffolk County police officer is to keep our residents safe and treat them with dignity, which is why comprehensive training on how to help people with a broad spectrum of needs is so important," Commissioner Sini said. "With this expanded training program, our officers will be equipped with the tools and education necessary to serve our communities with compassion and dedication."

[Click Here](#) for a clip of the program implementation.

## April is Autism Awareness Month

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Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disorder that affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. More than 3.5 million Americans currently live with ASD, and 1 in 68 children are born with a variation of it, so it's likely you know, whether or not you're aware of it, someone on the autism spectrum.

"Autists are the ultimate square pegs, and the problem with pounding a square peg into a round hole is not that the hammering is hard work. It's that you're destroying the peg."

**-Paul Collins**, author



## **Florida House passes Bill to require all police officers to be trained in autism awareness**

This required training is the result of the shooting of an unarmed therapist who was trying to protect an individual with Autism he supported who was the intended target. After the shooting self-advocates rallied to make Autism awareness training a requirement for all law enforcement officers. For more on this please [Click Here](#)

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## **UPCOMING FIRST RESPONDERS DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING**

Please mark your calendars and make your colleagues aware of these upcoming NU FRDAT Train-the-Trainer program opportunities.

### **April 4 & 5 - Buffalo, NY**

#### **911 Operator/Dispatcher Disability Awareness Training**

For more information on 911 Operator/Dispatch training contact:

NU FRDAT Office

716-286-7355

[frdat@niagara.edu](mailto:frdat@niagara.edu)

### **April 10 & 11 - New Orleans, LA**

#### **NENA Workshop at Navigator 2017 in New Orleans**

#### **911 Operator/Dispatcher Disability Awareness Training**

#### **Train the Trainer**

#### **2-day Program**

Fee: \$ 199.00

Date: Monday, April 10 - Tuesday, April 11

Time: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Instructor: Dave Whalen

The program is comprehensive across the disability spectrum, addressing disabilities 911 operators/dispatchers will encounter with most frequency and how to appropriately interact and address them most effectively. Understanding characteristics of individuals, the ability to identify disabilities and how to best address the incident will be emphasized. [Click this link to register for course and conference.](#)

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## **NU FRDAT Scheduled to Train at the three day leadership school for the FBI's Buffalo Field Office**

FR-DAT will be speaking to 50 first line supervisors in local law enforcement from WNY at the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base on April 26, 2017.

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## **Upcoming Conferences & Training Sessions**

- **April 12, 2017 - April 14, 2017**
  - Conference - International Academies of Emergency Dispatch [IAED Navigator 2017 - The Premiere conference for Police, Fire, and Medical Dispatch. New Orleans, LA](#)
    - **NU FRDAT 911 Operator/Dispatch Training to be conducted on Thursday, April 13.**
- **April 23, 2017 - April 25, 2017**
  - Conference - [The SEHSA Environmental Health and Safety Association of NY - Fairport, NY](#)
    - Program Director Dave Whalen will appear as the Keynote Speaker on Monday, April 24, 2017
- **May 9, 2017**
  - Training - Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training - Baltimore, MD
    - Hosted by Sheppard Pratt Health System
    - Registration details [here](#).


- **June 3, 2017 - June 8, 2017**

- Conference - [National Emergency Numbers Assn \( NENA \) Conference & Expo - San Antonio, TX](#)

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